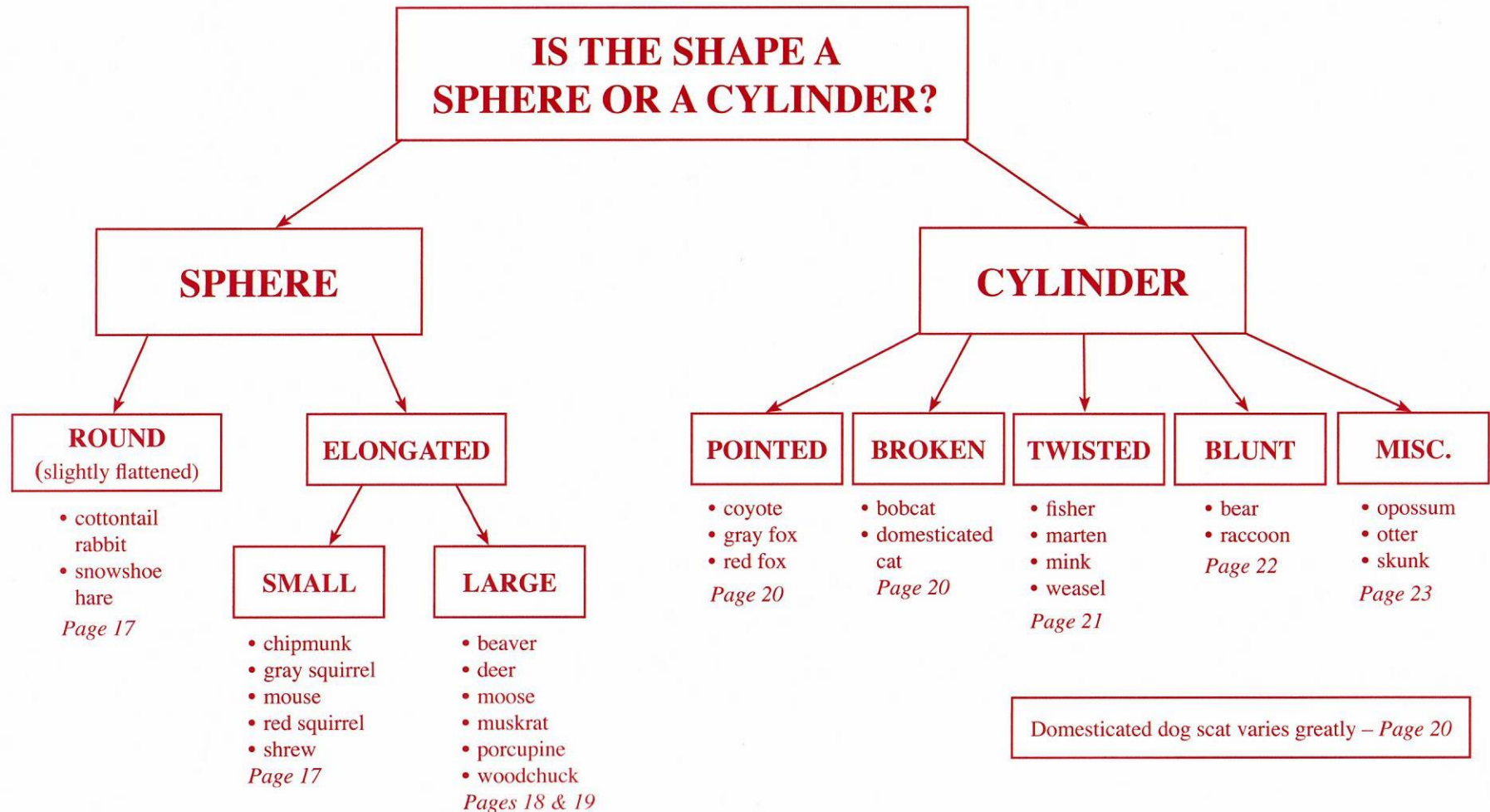


SCAT KEY

Scat is divided into two basic shapes: cylinders and spheres



**BE CAUTIOUS WHEN EXAMINING SCAT!! ALWAYS EXPLORE ITS CONTENTS WITH A TOOL!!
IF THE SCAT IS DRY AND DUSTY, DO NOT INHALE THE DUST. IT COULD LEAD TO SERIOUS LUNG INFECTIONS.**

Scat serves two purposes for mammals – the elimination of waste, and the marking of territory. Scat can be identified by its shape, size, color, abundance, smell, contents and by the habitat in which it is found. Identification of scat is more certain with additional information such as tracks or other signs (dens, teeth marks, etc.). In addition to animal identification, scat may help us determine what the mammal was eating by showing remnants of prey species or of undigested plant material. The scat illustrated in this guide represents the most common form and, as is true for human waste, it can vary from animal to animal, and from day to day. The work of James Halfpenny, Paul Rezendes, Olaus Murie and Mark Elbroch provided our scat measurements which are meant only as a general guide. Look carefully at the scat illustrations to see hair, bones, fish scales, seeds and other plant material.